

"Caring for our environment"

Centre : **KILCAR**
County : **DONEGAL**
Category : **A**

Results

Date of Adjudication : 15-06-1999

	Maximum Mark	Mark Awarded 1999	Mark Awarded 1998
Overall Developmental Approach	50	27	25
The Built Environment	40	20	20
Landscaping	40	21	20
Wildlife and Natural Amenities	30	16	15
Litter Control	40	19	18
Tidiness	20	13	12
Residential Areas	30	18	17
Roads, Streets and Back Areas	40	23	23
General Impression	10	5	5
TOTAL MARK	300	162	155

Kilcar, County Donegal

OVERALL DEVELOPMENTAL APPROACH

Considerable progress has been made since last year the increase in marking may not seem significant to the Council as a comparative newcomer to the competition, but in fact a rise of seven marks is well above the norm. What is encouraging is that projects are under way which should make a considerable impact over the next couple of years. Support from the community is most encouraging, as well as from the official bodies. When enclosing your map next year, please name the streets and roads on it.

THE BUILT ENVIRONMENT

The Church and School are particularly well maintained. The Kilcarra Yarns factory is very well kept. The large retail unit (opposite the Hair Salon) needed freshening up with paint. The Piper's Rest, O'Gara's, Teach Bearnai and Kilcar House were looking well on adjudication day. The Health Centre has been improved. The old church tower is unsightly - in other towns a landscaped feature has been made of such remains, to considerable effect: this might be a part of your long-term plan.

LANDSCAPING

New planting at the housing estate was admired, and tree planting at Towney road is an excellent initiative and will make its mark in a very few years. Further tree planting should be undertaken. The graveyard is well kept, and the church grounds are splendid.

WILDLIFE AND NATURAL AMENITIES

It is good to read that riverbank habitats are being preserved.

What steps are being taken to increase public awareness and involvement?

LITTER CONTROL

It should not be difficult to control litter in a small community. Your plans for tackling this problem are deserve commendation, and the results will be looked forward to.

TIDINESS

The upper part of the town is maintained in a much better

condition than the lower. It is not inevitable that industry should be untidy - certainly a number of factories in other centres in the county are notable for their environmental maintenance. A real will is needed to improve this area. Plastic and mass-produced signage should be discouraged on business premises. The car dump is an unsightly feature.

RESIDENTIAL AREAS

Older street houses are kept with pride - it is they which give real character to the town; among those admired in the main street on adjudication day were the purple and green house (colours which one would not expect to go so well together!), the house in two shades of blue, and the salmon-coloured house. Improvements were seen at the estate on the Towney road - well done to those concerned.

ROADS, STREETS AND BACK AREAS

Approach roads are well surfaced, but side roads at the lower part of the town are poor. Fencing on the Glencolumbcille road is both effective and attractive, and the new stone wall at the church is excellent (builders materials should always be removed immediately after completion - this applies to any site).

GENERAL IMPRESSION

Probably most visitors only see the very charming upper two thirds of the town; it is the lower part which needs most attention. Much good work has been undertaken in all areas however, and further improvements will be eagerly awaited.